National Surveillance Plan Format

APHIS, Veterinary Services conducts animal health surveillance through a number of existing systems, most of which effectively meet the current needs of the agency and stakeholders. While these systems have been effective in meeting their established goals, they are not substantively linked and represent components of a fragmented surveillance structure. Improvements in animal health and livestock production and direction in appropriately allocating normally limited resources are all encompassing goals of surveillance. The international expectations of scientifically based disease risk management strategies require accurate and timely surveillance data. APHIS, Veterinary Services must no longer subscribe to the paradigm of multiple, disparate systems.

In order to begin to build the comprehensive and integrated system, development of new or enhancements to existing surveillance components must be conducted in a systematic and consistent process. The outline below provides a format this process will follow in developing animal health surveillance within Veterinary Services.

I) Introduction
      A) Disease description
           1) etiologic agent
           2) distribution (worldwide and domestic)
           3) clinical signs and key pathological findings
           4) epidemiology
                  a) transmission dynamics
                  b) measures of morbidity
                  c) risk and protective factors
           5) economic impact
           6) methods and prospects for control
      B) Current surveillance efforts
      C) Identification of information end-users
      D) Establish objectives/need for surveillance

II) Address each objective (conduct the following steps for each objective)
      A) Case definitions/key indicators for tracking
      B) Population to target for surveillance
           1) species
           2) production type
      C) Non-targeted surveillance options/need (population based, random, representative)
           1) data sources
                  a) which samples
                  b) which animals to sample
                  c) sampling protocols
                  d) laboratory needs

      e) appropriate diagnostic tests
    2) who is responsible for data collection
    3) frequency of data collection
    4) potential integration with other systems
    5) data collection and storage applications
    6) necessary accompanying epidemiologic data
    7) sample size estimates
  D) Targeted surveillance options
    1) data sources
      a) which samples
      b) which animals to target for sampling
      c) sampling protocols
      d) laboratory needs
      e) appropriate diagnostic tests
    2) who is responsible for data collection
    3) frequency of data collection
    4) potential integration with other systems
    5) data collection and storage applications
    6) necessary accompanying epidemiologic data
    7) sample size estimates

III) Implementation plans
  A) Prioritization of objectives
  B)Timelines

IV) Analysis and reporting mechanisms
  A) Data analysis
    1) who is responsible for analysis
    2) analysis plan
  B) Reporting
    1) who is responsible for reporting
    2) intended audience
    3) expected formats for each audience
    4) reporting frequency

V) Performance metrics (annual)
  A) Quantitative
  B) Qualitative

VI) Reassessment/re-evaluation (annual)

VII) Budget plan estimates
  A) Possible integration with other budget plan/line items